

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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Wanted: A Race of Soil-Builders and Home-Makers.

YOU must not fail to read that little article of Mr. French's on page 23. There is only a column of it; but it tells a big story. And once you have read it, it may be worth while for you to go out on your farm, take a look over it, and then try to recall what it looked

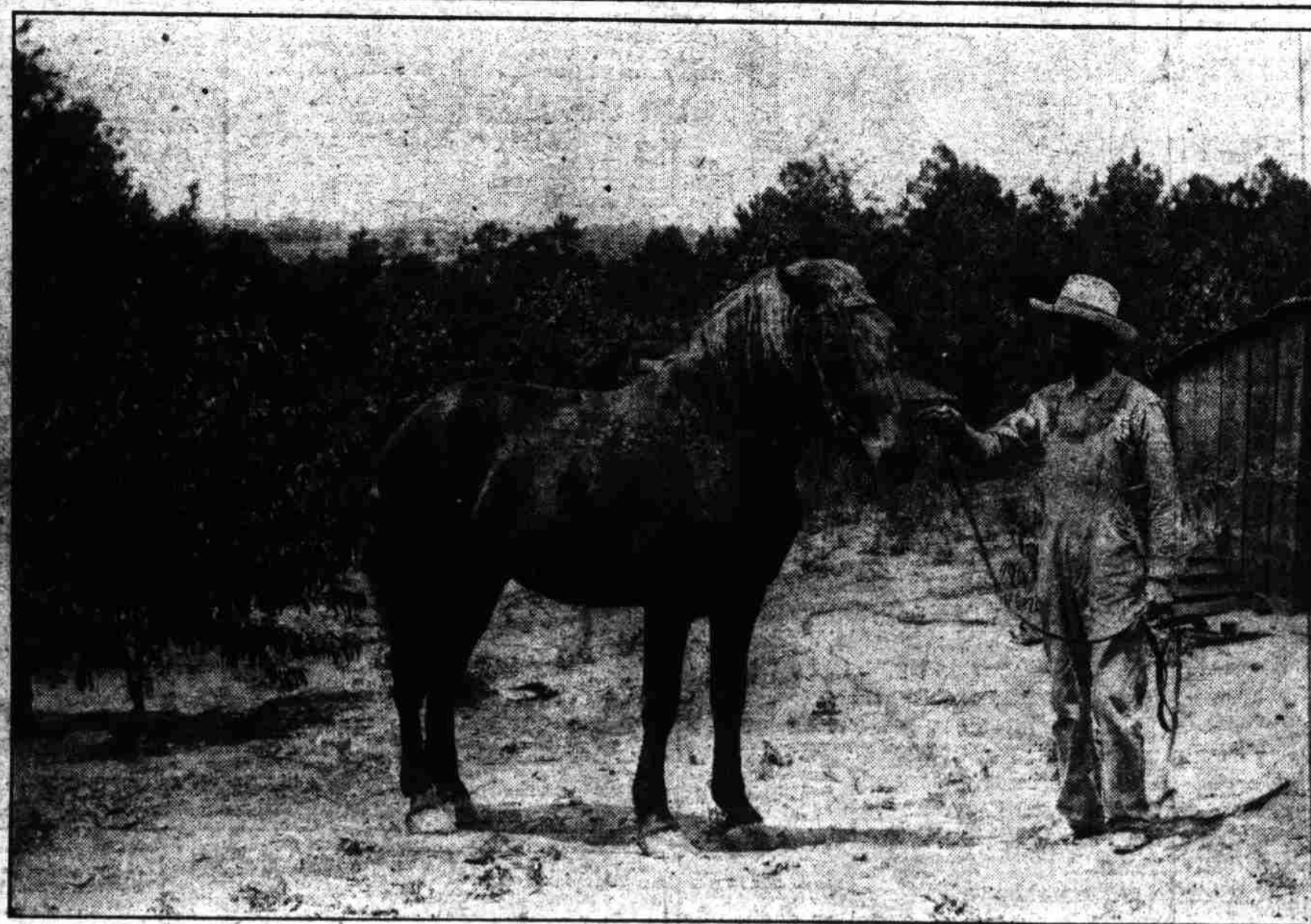
like two, or five, or ten years ago. Such a view should help you to determine in your own mind whether or not you are the right sort of farmer—that is, a soil-improving and a home-making farmer. After all, the great trouble with us here in the South is that we have been mere croppers instead of real farmers. We have thought only of what we could get out of the land this year, and failed to look ahead to next year, or the year after, or ten or twenty years from now. It is scarcely too much to say that the man who works a farm for

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only to each year's crop as he raises it, will at the end of that time have a poor farm; and that the man who farms the same land for twenty years, keeping the future welfare of this land always in view, will at the end of the period have a rich farm and a good home.

We must get this forward-looking spirit; and we must get over our old foolish notion that farming is merely a matter of buying fertilizers in the spring and selling crops in the fall. The demand today is for men who will set to work, in a small way if necessary, but with a fixed purpose, to make their farming lands steadily more fertile and their homes and home surroundings more attractive and cheerful. If all the farmers who read *The Progressive Farmer* could be quickened by such a purpose, their work and their example would literally remake the rural South in the next twenty years. Under their care the gullied hillsides would become green pastures; the unsightly and unhealthy swamp, would be transformed by drainage into the country's most fertile fields; the old rickety buildings and the untidy farmyards would give place to painted houses, whitewashed fences, and smiling lawns framed and bordered with trees and flowers and climbing vines. The cultivated lands would add to their fatness year by year, and larger



THE FIRST-PRIZE PHOTOGRAPH.

This picture, from Mr. Alan Nicholson, Union, S. C., was awarded first prize in our photograph contest which closed September 15. It is easy to find fault with this picture, but good photographs of farm animals are hard to get except from photographers who make a specialty of such work. On the whole, this is a good picture of a good animal—the sort of picture which really shows what the subject is like. The horse is Swartsburg, a pure-bred Percheron stallion owned by Mr. Nicholson. He was two years old last April, and weighs at present over 1,500 pounds. "Will be thoroughly broken and put to light work this fall," writes Mr. Nicholson.

do much just now to insure better crops next year; and the years after; but you can surely do a little. A gully stopped, a wet place drained, a bit of deep plowing followed by a cover crop, a field cleared of stumps or bushes, a broken fence patched up, a lawn prepared, a few shrubs planted or a few fruit and nut trees set out—you can do some or all of these things, and in doing them you are putting your farming upon a permanent basis, and laying up for yourself prosperity and satisfaction in the years to come.

Why not start this very year to be a constructive farmer?

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